3322. (Transferred to 23rd December, 1993)

PRODUCTION TARGET OF SUGARCANE

3323. SHRI AHMED MOHMED BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent the finances were provided through Sugar Development Fund in order to improve Sugarcane availability in the country;

(b) what is the total amount provided as assistance for research aimed at the development of Sugar industry during 1992-93; and

(c) whether any concrete proposals have been chalked out to improve sugar production during 1993-94 alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Till 30-11-1993, a total sum of Rs. 394.63 crores has been sanctioned as Cane Development loans to various sugar undertakings from the Sugar Development Fund. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 230.56 crores has already been disbursed.

(b) During 1992-93, a sum of Rs. 4.52 crores was provided as grants for research aimed at the development of sugar industry.

(c) The measures taken/initiated by the Government to improve sugar production during 1993-94 are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

MEASURES TAKEN/INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE SUGAR PRODUCTION DURING 1993-94 SEASON

(i) Early crushing incentives have been announced to provide higher freesale quota at 72 per cent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 percent, to sugar mills for their production achieved during the period 1-10-1993 to 15-11-1993.

(ii) Mid-crushing incentives have been announced to provide higher freesale quota at 80 per cent, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the incremental production to be achieved during the period 1-1-1994 to 30-4-1994 over the production during the same period in 1992-93 season.

(iii) Late crushing incentives have been announced to provide higher freesale quota at 72 per cent, as against the normal entitlement of 60 per cent, to sugar mills for their production achieved during the period 1-5-1994 to 31-7-1994.

(iv) Finance Ministry/Reserve Bank have been requested to provide need-based credit to the sugar industry during 1993-94 season.

(v) State Governments have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.

(vi) The loan component for grant of Sugar Development Fund assistance for KT Weirs and lift irrigation schemes has been enhanced to 90 per cent of the project cost.

(vii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane for 1993-94 season has been announced at Rs. 34.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9.5%, as against Rs. 31/- per quintal for 1992-93 season. An advance announcement of SMP for 1994-95 season has also been made at Rs. 37 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(viii) The incentive scheme for new sugar factories and expansion projects has been suitably revised.

(ix) State Governments have been requested to consider imposition of restrictions on gur and khandsari units prohibiting their operation before 31-12-1993 so as to make available more proportion of cane to the sugar mill sector.